

Copy of the last SPEECH Of the Late EARL of ARGYLE;

Delivered on the Scaffold, who was Beheaded at the Crosse of
Edinburgh, June 1685.

thorse

JOB tells us That a Man which is born of a Woman is of few
dayes and full of trouble, and I am a clear Instance of it.
I shall not now say any thing of my Sentence or
Escape about three years and a half ago, nor of the
Grounds of my Return, lest thereby I should give offence,
or be tedious.

Only being to end my Dayes in your presence, I shall as some
of my last words assert the truth of the matter of Fact, and the
sincerity of my Intention and Professions that are Published.

That I intend mainly to say now is, to express humbly, and I
thank God with cheerful submission to his divine will; and my
willingness to forgive all men even mine Enemies.

And I am heartily well satisfied there is no more Blood-spilt,
and do with the stream of it may stop at me, that if it please the
Almighty to say as to Zerubbabel, Zech. 4.6. Not by might nor by
power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts.

I know afflictions spring not out of the dust; God did won-
derfully deliver me, and provide for me, and hath now by his
special providence brought me to this place: I hope none will
either insult over me, or be stumbled at it, seeing they ought
not, for God giveth not a reason of his dealings, he doth all
things well for good and holy ends, though we do not alwayes
understand it. Love and hatred is not alwayes known by what
is before us, Eccles. 9: 1, 2, 3 verses. & Chap. 8. 11, 12, 13 verses.
Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily; there-
fore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. 12. Tho
a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his dayes be prolonged, yet surely
I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear be-
fore him. 13. But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall
he prolong his dayes, which are as a shadow, because he feareth not before
God. Afflictions are not only foretold but promised for Chri-
stians, and are not only tolerable but desirable.

We ought to have a deep Reverence and Fear of Gods dis-
pleasure, but withal a firm hope and dependance on him for a
blessed Issue in compliance with his will: for God chasteneth
his own to refine and not to ruine them whatsoever the World
think of it, Heb. 12. from the 3^d to the 13th verse, James 1. 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, verses. we must not shun sufferings, we are called unto
it, Mat. 10. 18, to the 40th verse & Chap. 16. 24, 25 verses. We
are to imitate our Saviour in his Suffering, 1 Pet. 1. 21, 22, 23 verses.
Chap. 3. 14, 15, &c. & Chap. 4. 16. We are not to despise our
afflictions, nor faint under them, Heb. 12. 4. both are extremes;
nor yet to suffer our Spirits to be exasperated against the Instru-
ments of our troubles, for the same affliction may be an effect of
passion, yet sent to punish us for sin, though it is a comfort when
with David we can say to them, Psal. 59. 3. Not for my Trans-
gression nor my Sin; nor are we by fraudulent Puselaminous com-
pliance in wicked excuses, to bring sin on our selves: faint hearts
are ordinarily false hearts, chusing sin rather than sufferings, and
a short life with eternal Death rather than Temporary Sufferings
with a Crown of Glory: but such seeking to save a little soul
all, and Gods readily harden them to proceed to their own destru-
ction: I know many Hereticks had a zeal, 2 King. 8. 13. go

these

to excesses, they never thought they were capable of. Let Rulers
and others seriously weigh and consider, Prov. 1. 11 to the 19th
verse. & Chap. 24. 10, 11, 12 verses. & Chap. 18. 9, 10. & Isai.
59. 7, to 15th verses. especially. Avoid what is ill, follow what is
good: for me I hope to say in Gods strength, and joyn with Job
Chap. 13. 15. Though he slay me yet will I trust in him: but I will
maintain mine own wayes before him. & Psal. 13. 4. Yea though I
walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. and trust
as Psal. 147. 11 The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in
those that hope in his mercy. and shall hope as Psal. 94. 14, 15, For
the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.
15. But judgment shall return unto righteousness, &c.

I do here forgive all, directly and indirectly that have been the
cause of my being brought to this place first or last, and pray
God to forgive them.

I pray God send Truth and Peace in these three Kingdoms, and
continue and increase the glorious light of the Gospel, and re-
strain all spirit of Profanity, Atheism, Oppression, Popery and
Persecution; and restore all that have back-slidden from the purity
of their Life and Principles, and blest his whole People with all
blessings Spiritual and Temporal: and put an end to the present
trials.

I intreat all present to forgive me wherein I have offended, and
to concur with me, that the great and merciful God would sanctify
my present Lot, and for Jesus Christ his sake forgive and pardon
all my sins, and receive me into his everlasting glory.

It is suggested unto me that I have said nothing of the Royal
Family, and it remembers me that before the justiciaries at
my Trial about the Test, I said that at my death I would pray that
there should never want one of the Royal Family to be a Defen-
der of the True, Ancient, Apostolick, Catholick, Protestant
Faith, which I now do; and that God would enlighten and for-
give all of them that are either hid in Error, or have shrunk back
from their Profession. And in all Events I pray God may pro-
vide for the security of his Church, that Antichrist nor the
Gates of Hell may not prevail against it.

*This is a Just and Authentick Copy of the Speech of the
late Earl of Argyle, all written with his own hand, and orde-
red to be transmitted to the Lord Secretary of State for the
Kingdom of Scotland. Is Attested by*

WILLIAM PATTERSON Clerk
to His Majesties Privie Council